Background:

In 2011, the City of London finalized a Community Improvement Plan for the ‘South of Horton’ (SoHo) neighbourhood, followed by a Secondary Plan in 2013 for the Old Victoria Hospital (OVH) Lands. Both of these plans recommend significant private and public space investment and development. Thames Valley Corridor public space enhancements is a priority for the City of London and will form a critical component to the successful revitalization of SoHo and OVH neighbourhood, as outlined in both of these master plan documents.

In 2015, the London Community Foundation, in partnership with the City of London and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority initiated an international design competition to realize the potential of the Thames River in the City of London and improve the community’s quality of life, enhance the river’s environment and contribute to economic development in the City. This competition was branded ‘Back to the River’, or ‘B2R’.

The B2R winning design, submitted by Civitas Landscape Architects and Stantec Consulting Limited, included an inaugural project in the SoHo neighbourhood at the OVH lands. This project recommended “Victoria’s Lookout”, a plaza at the south end of Colbourne Street and a pedestrian bridge over the Thames River, linking the SoHo neighbourhood to Watson Street Park.

The City of London is pleased to partner with Western University engineering students to investigate opportunities, constraints and design options for the SoHo pedestrian bridge and associated park amenities/infrastructure. To assist with this assignment, the City has compiled the following relevant background information:

1. 2011 - SoHo Community Improvement Plan
2. 2013 - Old Victoria Hospital Lands Secondary Plan
3. 2013 - SoHo Redevelopment Environmental Impact Study
4. 2013 – SoHo Geotechnical Assessment & Slope Stability Assessment
5. 2015 - Ribbon of the Thames (B2R) winning design summary
6. 2015 - Engineering plans for Colborne Street and the Colborne Street storm sewer outlet
7. 2015 - City of London Bicycle Master Plan (central area map)
8. 2017 – SoHo Redevelopment Base Plan (development limits)

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